

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4464

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, TU

SUBJECT: FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON TURK-SOVIET RELATIONS

1.MFA EASTERN DEPT DIR TEZEL, DURNJG JUNE 6 COURTESY
CALL BY TURKISH DESK OFFICER KIRBY, ACCOMPANIED BY EMB
OFFICER, SAID THAT TURK-SOVIET RELATIONS SHOULD BE SEEN IN
CONTEXT OF TURKEY'S BASIC WESTWARD ORIENTATION, BUT AT SAME
TIME NEED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. GOT, TIED TO
WEST THROUGH SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, POLITICALLY, AND
ECONOMICALLY, PREFERRED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE WEST
BUT ACCEPTED IT FROM THE USSR IF NECESSARY. EXAMPLE WAS
ALUMINUM PLANT AT SEYDISEHIR; TURKEY FOR TWO YEARS HAD
SOUGHT WESTERN HELP BEFORE TURNING TO USSR.

2. TEZEL REMARKED THAT PRIMIN ECEVIT, AS A SOCIAL
DEMOCRAT, WAS ACCUSED BY HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS OF BEING
PRO-SOVIET. IN FACT, PREVIOUS RIGHTIST GOVTS HAD GONE FURTHER
IN NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS AND EXCHANGING VISITS WITH THE
USSR THAN HAD THE ECEVIT GOVT. WE SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER,
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VIEW PRESENT APPARENT LULL IN ACTIVITY BETWEEN TURKEY AND

THE USSR AS SIGNALLING ANY CHANGE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. LACK OF FRESH INITIATIVES AT THIS TIME DEMONSTRATED THAT SITUATION WAS NORMAL. SOVIET ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS CONTINUING AND GOT WAS WAITING FOR WORD FROM USSR AS TO WHEN SOVIET FOMIN GROMYKO WOULD ACCEPT INVITATION TO VISIT TURKEY.

3. TEZEL OBSERVED THAT SOVIETS FOR YEARS HAD WANTED VEHICLE TRANSIT AGREEMENT THROUGH TURKEY TO SYRIA AND IRAQ. TURKEY "UNFORTUNATELY" HAD SIGNED SUCH AN AGREEMENT IN LATE 1960S BUT PARLIAMENT HAD NEVER RATIFIED IT. IT WAS NOT IN TURKEY'S INTEREST, TEZEL CONCLUDED, TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT WHICH WAS ONLY OF UNILATERAL BENEFIT TO USSR.

MACOMBER

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